







# Study looks at restoring river

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HEBER CITY — The consulting team doing the Provo River sinuosity study, to determine how to restore the river to a natural state, met with riverfront property owners for three days last week, to find out how proposed changes in the river would effect their agricultural operations and lifestyles.

The sinuosity study is part of the Wasatch County efficiency water studies that are mandated as part of the Central Utah Project, and has included extensive research to find the original river channel, between Jordanelle Dam and Deer Creek Reservoir, before it was bulldozed and otherwise altered to accommodate irrigation. The studies are being conducted by Montgomery Engineering for the Cen-

tral Utah Water Conservancy District (CUWCD), which has been assigned to complete the Central Utah Project.

The water studies project engineer Paul Summers, Montgomery Engineering, emphasized that the river studies are totally separate from the studies being conducted for the proposed river parkway. The parkway studies are being conducted by Bear West Consultants, for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the State Division of Parks and Recreation.

Summers explained that the parkway study was started before the sinuosity study, but has been put on hold until the realignment of the river channel and other improvements are determined.

He explained the sinuosity project is to restore. "More natural meanders, so it functions more like a natural river and, of

course, creating a fishery that is a first class fishery. That will obviously bring along fisherman, but that's not a parkway. It's not jogging trails, and horse trails and things that will bring in hundreds of thousands of people. It's important to keep that in mind."

In addition, while the sinuosity and other water studies will make up a supplemental environmental impact statement (EIS) that will be added to the 1979 Jordanelle Reservoir EIS, a separate EIS will be required for the parkway, although the sinuosity studies will probably be used in the parkway studies. Chip Paulson, Montgomery's team leader for the river project, also said the parkway must be designed to accommodate the river, not vice versa.

Summers said the purpose of the scoping meetings was, "to try to develop a consensus on ideas

as to how to develop the restoration and revitalization of this stretch of the Provo River... Hopefully we'll be able to allay some fears."

Paulson said the stated mission of the sinuosity study is: To put the river back into a condition where it will function as a river should.

"That means that it has a channel, and when the river gets higher, it spills into riverbanks, and that reduced velocity, encouraging cottonwoods to grow and other kinds of riparian vegetation, and provides habitat for fish and other wildlife.

"That natural river system has meanders, ripples and pools, drops, vegetation along the banks, cut in some areas. It doesn't stay in one place. Over long periods of time it will move back and forth.



